

REMARKS

Claims 1- 11 are pending in the application. Claims 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 9-11 are currently being examined, and are on appeal.

The foregoing makes minor clerical amendments to claims 9-11 to place them in better form for appeal and allowance. Applicants' representative spoke with Examiner Priebe on January 5, 2004 to discuss how best to affect the foregoing amendments at this stage of prosecution. Examiner Priebe suggested that Applicants submit an Amendment concurrently with the Appeal Brief. Accordingly, this Amendment is submitted concurrently with the Appeal Brief, and the amended claims are set forth in Appendix B of the Brief.

The foregoing amendments make clerical changes to the claims, and do not introduce new matter. Applicants therefore request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of claims 1-5 and 9-11 in view of the accompanying Appeal Brief.

If there are any questions regarding this paper, or if any issues remain, the Patent Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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